

ANNA SCHARF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 23



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 9, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for HB 4033

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on HB 4033.

While I am sure the sponsors of the bill had well-intentioned changes in mind, the proposed change cut at the original intent of the Tribal Advisory Committee.

My no vote stemmed from the concern that the bill removed the four parent committee members from the Tribal Advisory Committee. The committee was established by the Early Learning Division for the purpose of coordinating with the Early Learning Council on early learning services provided to the tribal communities of this state.

By removing the four parent committee members from this advisory committee to the Early Learning Council, there is no guarantee that the parent voice will be heard. This goes against the core of the intent of the Early Learning Hubs and the purpose of the council dating back to 2013. It removed parents who are receiving early learning services from the state from having a seat at the table.

Finally, the specific Tribal Early Learning Council was established to address specific Native American early learning concerns and to address unique concerns of being a historically disadvantaged population in Oregon as it relates to education and education outcomes.

In no way was my NO vote meant to disenfranchise this committee's autonomy and ability to self-govern. Respecting the voices of parents is a serious matter and honoring their input in a formal way by giving them a recognized vote on matters that impact their children is an important reason to register a NO vote on the bill.

Regards,

Anna Scharf
State Representative
House District 23